This would enable service providers, other than basic service operators, to use the 1880-1900 MHz band for provision of various services under their licence.

A transparent scheme is being outlined separately for time-bound frequency allocation, sitting clearance and wireless licensing by removing the cumbersome procedures, computerization and by setting predetermined standards.

3.0 Other salient features:

- National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) has been set up by DIT, Government of India to ensure that Internet traffic, originating and destined for India, should be routed within India. It is expected that NIXI will take appropriate steps for increasing the utilization of such facilities.
- The Government has assigned a very high priority to indigenous manufacture of broadband related equipments and shall endeavour to work closely with the concerned ministries and manufacturers associations so that the equipments are made available at an affordable price.
- DOT is conscious of the fact that Broadband services can reach the urban and rural consumers only if services are offered at affordable and easy terms. Department of Telecommunications will work out a package in consultation with Ministry of Finance and relaed Departments as well as concerned service providers to achieve this.

Revival of Indian Telephone Industries, Bangalore

3154. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state the steps taken by Government for the revival of the Indian Telephone Industries, Bangalore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The salient steps taken by the Government for revival of Indian Telephone Industries, Bangalore are as under:

(i) Government has sanctioned a revival package of Rs. 1024.77 crore during the year 2004-05 to support VRS expenditure equity infusion, induction of new Technology products.

(ii) Reservation of 30% of orders by BSNL and MTNL towards ITI.

(iii) Advance payment of 75% of the purchase order value against the reserved quota orders.

(iv) Assistance by way of Government guarantee to raise loan/bonds from market.

Post offices in the country

3155. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to increase their numbers;

(c) if so, the State-wise/location-wise details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Details of post offices in different postal circles in the country are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) to (d) Post offices are opened subject to fulfillment of distance, population and income norms. Hence State-wise/location-wise details are not readily available. As and when a location is found to justify all the three norms, action is taken to open a post office. The policy directives in the 10th Plan require new post offices to be opened only through redeployment of existing manpower, and also for the existing network to be rationalized so as to optimize resources. Expansion of the postal network is therefore being done by relocating existing Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices/Extra Departmental Sub Post Offices and single and double handed Departmental Sub Offices in urban areas which do not fulfil the distance norms to needy areas which justify a post office.